

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE, WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS

1. DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF MESSRS. MARTIN MENDELSON AND THOMAS BELOTE, OFFICIALS OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO RIGA, THEY WERE SHOWN CERTAIN ARCHIVE RECORDS FROM WHICH THEY SELECTED DOCUMENTS TO BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE REQUESTED A STATUS REPORT ON THE MATTER AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW APPROXIMATELY WHEN THEY MAY EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE DOCUMENTS.

2. ONE WITNESS, ANTON IGNATOVICH RAKOVICH, WHO WAS INTERVIEWED AT RIGA ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1976, STATED THAT THERE ARE PRISONER INMATE RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD 1940 TO 1943 AT REZEKNE PRISON. MESSRS. MENDELSON AND BELOTE WISH TO KNOW WHETHER THOSE RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE AND WHETHER THEY COULD OBTAIN A COPY OF SAME.

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3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROSECUTION OF CASES AGAINST BOLESLOV MAIKOVSKIS AND KARLIS DETLAVS, UNITED STATES PROSECUTORS CONSIDER IT CRUCIAL, EVEN VITAL, TO THE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS THAT THE FOLLOWING SOVIET CITIZENS TRAVEL TO THE U.S. TO APPEAR AS WITNESSES. FOR THE MAIKOVSKIS CASE THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES ARE NEEDED:

(1) KALNIN H, YANIS YANOVICH (2) LEYCH, VLADISLAV DOMINIKOVICH (3) PERAVA, ELJA KARLOVNA (4) ANCH'S, ALOYZ EDUARDOVICH (5) USNE, NICKOLAY-NEYKULF GABRIYELOVICH (6) ZIMOV, KONSTANTIN MIKHAYLOVICH (7) ZIMOV, PERENTIIY AFANAS'YEVICH. FOR THE DETLA VS CASE THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES ARE NEEDED. (1) DETLA VS, TEODOR FRITSI (2) IKLAUS, P.P. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN FROM THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WHETHER THEY WOULD PERMIT THE MENTIONED PERSONS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AND SHOULD EXTEND A RECIPROCAL INVITATION TO NICKOLAI ZHUKOV AND YURI ZVERYEV, BOTH MEMBERS OF THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE TO PAY A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND OBSERVE THE COURT PROCEEDINGS IN WHICH THE ABOVE WITNESSES WILL BE TESTIFYING.

4. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PERSONS COULD BE INFORMALLY INTERVIEWED IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND IF SO WHETHER DEPOSITIONS COULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE TAKEN FROM THE PERSONS WHOSE TESTIMONY WOULD APPEAR PROBATIVE FOR WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION PURPOSES:

(1) SALNIKOV, PETR GRIGORYEVICH (2) MEZHALE, VERA TIMOFEYEVNA (3) SHERSHNEVA, MARIYA SEMENOVNA (4) SHALAYEV, NAUM GRIGOR'YEVICH (5) YUDOV, PLATON IOSIFOVICH (6) SHUKOVISK, ANTON YANOVICH (7) RUKMAN, YANIS FELIKSOVICH (8) STRAUTS, YAZET ANTONVICH (9) PLANTONOV, LEON POTAPOVICH (10) KOVALEVSKAYA, KLAVDIYA (11) LUKSTINSCH, LUDWIG
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ANDREJEWITSCH (12) WOYTANS, JANIS (13) DERWANIKS, ONUFRIJ KASIMIROVITCH (14) YURCHENKO, ANTONINA OSIPOVNA (15) GVOZDEV, FILIPP YEPIFANOVICH (16) PALTSCHESKIS, ALEXANDER.

5. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT A SOVIET PROCURATOR NORMALLY TAKES DEPOSITIONS BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS OF LOCAL CITIZENS FOR USE IN TRIALS IN THE U.S. IF THERE ARE APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS PRESENT.

6. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND REPORT ON THE MATTERS MENTIONED IN THIS TELEGRAM ASAP. CHRISTOPHER

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